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Furman loses funding for Baptist Historical Collection

J. Glen Clayton
Furman University

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and Jennifer **McNeill**, a son, Jackson Henry, February 15, 2002, Orlando, Fla. ■ **Scott** and Melissa **Shadle**, a son, Andrew, August 12, Daytona Beach, Fla. Scott is an independent consultant with Raytheon Corporation, focusing on large software implementations.

88

This year is reunion!

Karen Buckmiller is a pediatric occupational therapist in the Developmental Evaluation Center of the Raleigh (N.C.) Department of Health and Human Services. ■ **Chuck** and **Wanda Kay Rodgers Sox** have moved to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he is university chair for manufacturing management at the University of Alabama. ■ **MARRIAGE:**

John Dixon Watts III and Traci Danielle Kerr, October 26. They live in Greenville where she is a registered nurse at Greenville Memorial Hospital and he is a partner in the law firm of Nexsen, Pruet, Jacobs and Pollard. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Brent Alan** and **Sharah Baughcome** '90 **Clark**, a daughter, Jordyn Alana, April 27, Newberry, S.C. ■ **Trent** and **Melinda Burroughs Lovick**, a son, Parker James, August 8, Raleigh, N.C. ■ **William, Jr.**, and **Kristin Huff Martin**, a son, Matthew James, August 17, Dacula, Ga. ■ **Harry** and **Sharon Harrison Murphy**, a daughter, Megan Laoise, June 7, Atlanta, Ga.

89

Next reunion in 2004

Hughey Hancock is a bandsman

with the U.S. Air Force. He plays horn in the concert band and the brass ensemble of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He also performs in regional orchestras throughout southwestern Ohio, southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. ■ **Jeff Phillips** has left public education to work in oncology and hematology clinical research with PPD Development, Inc., in Wilmington, N.C. ■ **George Quarles**, football coach at Maryville (Tenn.) High School, led his team to the state Class 4A championship December 7 with a 29-26 victory over Hillsboro High. Maryville has now won three consecutive state titles. ■ Respiratory therapist **Joseph Smith** of Norfolk, Neb., has started TravelTax (www.traveltax.net), a tax preparation

and planning business for those in the temporary travel business. He is also on the board of directors of Puerto Rico Baptist College, a missionary Bible college in the San Juan area. ■ **MARRIAGE:** **Sherrie Mann** and Billy Ray McBride, Jr., July 20. She is a special education teacher at Berea High School in Greenville. He is pursuing an associate degree in industrial technology at Greenville Technical College. ■ **BIRTHS:** **John** and **Renee Brown** '90 **Herlong**, a daughter, Sydney Rebecca, June 8, Kinston, N.C. ■ **Steve** and **Valerie Miller Maloof**, a son, Francis Joseph, August 4. ■ **Jerry** and **Liz Ennis** '91 **Spearman**, a son, Aaron, May 23, Georgetown, S.C. ■ **Grover** and **Kendra Murdock Wells**, a daughter, Brenna

Furman loses funding for Baptist Historical Collection

Thanks to a decision by South Carolina Baptists at their 2002 meeting in November, the Baptist Historical Collection in the James B. Duke Library is no longer the official archives for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The Baptist Historical Collection is one of the finest collections of materials relating to Baptist life in the South, containing hundreds of church records on microfilm plus photographs of churches and ministers. In 2001, the state convention appointed a committee to investigate the relationship of the convention and Furman regarding the Baptist Historical Collection and to determine whether it should start another collection.

When the committee brought its report to the 2002 session, its recommendations, which were approved, included:

■ The convention should create a History Room in the Baptist Building in Columbia and begin collecting church histories and other materials relating to South Carolina Baptist history.

■ The archives of the convention's General Board, currently housed at Furman, should be returned to the Baptist Building, and a room should be provided in the building to store the archives of Baptist

building employees. Arrangements are being made to transfer the archives to Columbia.

■ Funding of the Baptist Historical Collection at Furman should cease as of January 1, 2003, with the money originally intended for the collection — \$25,000 per year — used to support the History Room in the Baptist Building.

The action ends a long relationship between Furman and the South Carolina Baptist Convention dating to Furman's organization as the Furman Academy and Theological Institute in 1826. After Furman and the convention severed ties in 1992, the Baptist Historical Collection was the only entity at the university that continued to receive funding from South Carolina Baptists.

The Baptist Historical Collection began more than 100 years ago. In 1890, Furman Classics professor H.T. Cook organized the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society and began gathering materials. Even though the original organization had a short life, Cook continued to collect materials during his years at Furman (1881-1918, after which he was an emeritus professor until his death in 1943). These materials were placed in the Furman library and

became the core of the Baptist Historical Collection.

The next concerted effort to collect Baptist materials came in 1948, when the Baptist Historical Society was revived by Louie Latimer Owens and John Hamrick. Furman was designated as the repository, and Owens volunteered her time to work with the Furman library staff in organizing the materials collected.

The BHC was designated the official archives for the state convention in the early 1960s, after Furman moved to its current site. Owens was hired on a part-time basis as the first special collections librarian. I came to Furman in 1972 as full-time special collections librarian and archivist.

The unfortunate result of this decision is that the continuity of the collection will be broken, and anyone researching Baptist life in South Carolina will have to go to different locations to find all of the sources. Some services may be curtailed as a result of the loss of funding, and other services which were previously provided free of charge, such as the microfilming of church records, may move to a fee-based service.

— J. Glen Clayton